

Bomford's Mill  
Southwest corner of Potomac and  
Grace Streets, N.W.  
Washington (Georgetown)  
District of Columbia

RABS No. DC-143

HABS  
DC  
GEO  
86-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
801 19th Street, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20006

## BOMFORD'S MILL

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Location: Southwest corner of Potomac Street and Grace street (formerly, Cherry Alley), and just south of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. (The entire milling complex now has the address of 3261 K Street N.W.)

Present Owner: Wilkins-Rogers Milling Co.

Present Occupant: Same.

Present Use: Offices and flour mill, (first and second floors) and storage (third and fourth floors).

Statement of This is the only old mill remaining in Georgetown, and is representative of an important local industry. It was originally built by Col. George Bomford, merchant and ordnance expert.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History:

## 1. Original and subsequent owners:

- a. The following information is an incomplete chain of title to the land on which the mill is built. The site is in Square 1185, lot 805 (old square 15, old lot 79, northern part). The references are to the Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia.

1798 Deed November 22, 1798 recorded November 24, 1798 in Liber D folio 145

Thomas Beall, son of late George Beall

To

the Mayor Recorder and Corporation of Georgetown

"Said Thomas Beall of Georgetown is seized in fee of lot 79 in Georgetown and wishes to open a street through the same as a public way. Conveys part of lot 79 as aforesaid beginning for the said street at the end of the third line of part said lot sold Sam Davison rec. 10-19-1785 and running reverse with said third line to lot 42; then Easterly with lot 42, 33 feet; then Southerly parallel to the first line to Keys; then with the street called Keys to the beginning. The said Street being called and known by Cherry Street continued to the street called Keys of Georgetown." (Potomac Street is 33 feet wide on the Baist Atlas, not including sidewalks).

1820 Will of Thomas Brooke Beall  
Will Book 31 folio 78 dated November 23, 1808  
Probated October 14, 1820  
Executors: Hugh (?) Beall  
Capt. John Rose  
Stephen B. Balch  
Directs that all his lands in Maryland and the  
District of Columbia be sold by Executors,

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Note: The deeds of 1846 to 1859 below are included as they make many significant references to the Bomford mill and the Ray mill and to their dealings with the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal Co. Actual deeds of Bomford's mill have not yet been found for this period.

1848 Deed December 9, 1846 recorded March 17, 1848 in  
Liber WB 141 folio 249

George Bomford

To

Alexander Ray

Recites that the 1st party by lease with the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Co. is entitled to a water right of 400 in. to be supplied by said Co. from their Canal for use of said first party's mill house being situated on Lot 79 in Original Georgetown, immediately south of the Market House of the grant of which water right is for 20 years renewable forever, and first party has recently sold to second party portion of lot 79 being the lower or southern part and fronting 40 feet on water street and extending back with Potomac Street upon which second party is to erect a mill and second party has agreed with first party for the purchase of 100 inches absolutely of said water right and 50 inches additional inches contingently, therefore first party conveys to the second party 100 inches of water right granted and leased by said Co. to first party to be furnished from the present Cotton Mill and Factory of first party through a circular orifice to be made in the side of said factory the bottom of said orifice to be level with the top of the present 30 feet water wheel of said factory to be conducted therefrom in a trunk to be constructed at his own cost.... And the first party also transfers unto second party 50 inches additional of his said water right to be taken in same way and subject to same rate of rent and cov. of said 100 inches but the grant of sale of said 50 inches is upon

this condition that the said second party shall have said 50 inches no longer than he can obtain a grant of 50 inches from the said Canal Co. and upon his obtaining the same this grant is to be void.

1847 Covenant December 9, 1846 recorded March 17, 1847 in  
Liber WB 141 folio 254

George Bomford

To

Alexander Ray

Refers to the recent purchase of land "for the purpose of erecting a grist mill thereon."

However, "some of this lot still further south than the portion so sold and which until recently was held by George Bomford, hath been recently appropriated wrongfully against the protest of said George Bomford by the Corporation of Georgetown to enlarge Water St. [K St.]." Bomford covenants to permit Ray to use this land. [On the mill building now on northwest corner of Potomac and K Streets are two stone plaques, inscribed:

(1) "Erected for A. Ross Ray and Bro. by Henry Rohrer 1847."

(2) "Rebuilt by Wilkins Rogers Milling Co. 1922."]

1848 Deed December 9, 1846 recorded March 17, 1848 in  
Liber WB 141 folio 256

George Bomford et ux Clara

To

Alexander Ray

Conveys lot. But the grantor reserves the right of use of the common sewer as set forth. Said purchase is made subject to debt due from Bomford to Thomas Corcoran. Same has been released upon condition that the deferred payment is to be secured by deed of trust on said condition to William W. Corcoran.

1848 Release March 17, 1848 recorded November 21, 1848 in  
Liber WB 141 folio 265

William W. Corcoran

Emily Corcoran

Ex. of Thomas Corcoran

To

George Bomford

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1851 Deed February 10, 1851 recorded May 6, 1851 in  
Liber JAS 24 folio 157  
John Marbury, Trustee  
To

Alexander Ray

By decree, 24 May 1849, John Thompson Mason vs.  
Gen. John Mason et al, said Marbury was appointed  
Trustee with power to sell part of lot 80 in original  
Georgetown which he did on July 18, 1849. (This  
lot is the entire east side of lot 80, which  
is later divided up.)

1859 Deed December 30, 1854 recorded in  
Liber JAS 170 folio 155  
Alexander Ray et ux Hannaett  
To

Thomas Wilson

Part of lot #80, original plan of Georgetown:  
The east line is drawn south with the "Wall  
of the Picken House attached to and forming part  
[of] the cotton factory building of said Thomas  
Wilson." A provision for light: "Said Alexander  
Ray and his heirs and assigns shall not hereafter  
at any time erect or allow to be erected on that  
part [of] the lot ground bounded by said grantee  
premises on West and by the Mill building of  
said Wilson on the East any building or structure  
whatsoever by which the light or air shall be  
excluded in any degree from said Cotton Mill  
Building."

1913 Deed in trust, January 15, 1913 recorded January 18  
1913 in

Liber 3561 folio 284

The G. W. Cissel Co.

(a D.C. corporation)

To

Continental Trust Co.

(a D.C. corporation)

Refers to "the present mill of said Bomford on  
Northern part" of lot 79.

1916 Deed January 5, 1916 recorded January 15, 1916 in  
Liber 3852 folio 205

Samuel G. Eberly )

Charles L. Bowman )

George W. Offutt, Jr.) 1st

Charles H. Cragin )

The National Capital Bank of Washington )

The Union Savings Bank of Washington, D.C. )

The Potomac Savings Bank of Georgetown, D.C.) 2nd

The Farmers and Mechanics National Bank of )

Georgetown, D.C. )

H. A. Waters )

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To  
Effie A. Waters wife of H. A. Waters) 3rd  
Howard L. Wilkins)  
Samuel H. Rogers ) 4th

Southern part of lot 79 Sq. 1185, south of the  
present main cotton factory building. Subject  
as to lot 79 to the following use, etc. received  
by Geo. Bomford in deed conveying said part of  
lot dated 9 December 1846, WB 141, folio 256.

1917 Lease October 1, 1916 recorded May 24, 1917 in  
Liber 3977 folio 425

Hugh L. Bond, Jr.  
George A. Colston  
Herbert R. Preston

Trustees of all the property of the C. & O. Canal  
Co.

To

District of Columbia Paper Mfg. Co.

"Full right for 20 years to draw off from the  
C. & O. Canal between 33rd St. and Wisconsin  
Ave. 3214 cu. ft. of water per minute from the  
level between locks #4 and 5 to be used solely  
for mfg. purposes." Annual rent \$3120. (With  
rights to increase amount.) "The old outlet is  
in Potomac Street and running diagonally southeast  
to property formerly occupied by said company  
on east side of Potomac Street."

1926 Agreement June 1, 1926 recorded in  
Liber 5787 folio 20

George A. Colston  
Herbert R. Preston

Surviving trustees of the C. & O. Canal

To

District of Columbia Paper Mfg. Co.

On drawing water from the canal and their right  
to close it for repairs, etc.

1928 Agreement October 12, 1928 recorded October 30, 1928 in  
Liber 5909 folio 369

Herbert R. Preston  
George A. Colston

Surviving trustees of all the property of the  
C. & O. Canal, by virtue of decree of Circuit  
Court for Washington Co., Md. passed October  
2, 1890

and

The District of Columbia Paper Mfg. Co.

and

Crystal Ice Co. and  
Wilkins-Rogers Milling Co.

"Whereas the following companies are now leasees and holders of certain water rights held under renewals, etc...." These companies wanted to draw more water, and the C. & O. agreed, if they would finance the improvement of the intake dam at a cost of \$28,000--canal company would credit the rentals as refund upon the amount paid, with 6% from date of expenditure of money. Paper Co. - \$16,000; Ice Co. - \$7,600; Mill Co. - \$4,400.

- b. The following owner information is taken from D. C. city directories, to be found in the Washington Public Library, and from D. C. Assessment Records (National Archives microcopy 605):

- 1865-70 Assessment, p. 296 (Microcopy 605, roll 12)  
Part of lot 79 on west line of Potomac St., and 46 feet on (south line) of market space, improved by large cotton factory - \$25,000 (Land, \$5000). Listed under Thomas Wilson, but has indication that it was bought by A. H. Herr during this period.
- 1865-70 Assessment, p. 354, shows that the firm of Herr and Welch owned property on both sides of K St. between 35th and 34th, which included "large flour and plaister [sic] Mills & warehouse" and on south side, "cooper shop and wharf".
- 1864 Directory listing: Flour, grain and feed: Herr and Welch, 170 Water (K) Street.
- 1865 James S. Welch, miller, home 53 2nd St., Georgetown.
- 1866 Welch & Sons (J.S., E.P., J.H., & P.H.) miller Water (K) near Frederick (34th).
- 1867 James S. Welch, miller (same location) home 29 1st St.
- 1868 James L. (sic) Welch, (Herr & Welch) flour. Abraham H. Herr, 52 2nd St., Georgetown  
Herr & Welch, flour, 94 Louisiana Avenue
- 1869 Herr & Welch, wholesale flour dealers, 82 and 84 La. Ave.
- 1870 Herr & Welch, 916 and 918 Louisiana Ave. N.W. (renumbered)  
Herr & Welch, millers, Potomac, corner of Cherry. (this is the first mention of this mill in their listings).
- 1876 No listings.
- 1877 Herr, A.H., Georgetown (no mill listing).  
Welch, James S., of Fickling & Welch, Druggists, 77 High Street (M) Georgetown.

- Welch Brothers (Edward P., James H., Rosia W.) merchant millers, Water St. corner of Fayette (35th).
- 1879 Herr and Cissel, flour mill, Potomac corner of Grace.  
Pioneer Mills (A. H. Herr, G. W. Cissel) First entry for the new company.
- 1881 Herr & Cissel, Columbia Mills, 3417-3429 Water St. (these are the buildings between 35th and 34th)
- 1883 Herr & Cissel, "Manufacturers of Great Swiss process and centennial premium flour" Columbia Mills.
- 1884 Herr & Cissel, also manufacture "Swiss & buda-pest process, herwood and cooks' delight family flour" 3417 and 3429 Water St. N.W.
- 1886 Austin Herr, proprietor, Pioneer and Columbia roller mills, manufacturer of "Gloria, Swiss Process, Floralba, Cooks' Delight, and other patent and family flours" 3258-3262 Grace St. N.W. (this address is clearly that of the Bomford mill) and 3417 to 3429 Water Street N.W.
- 1886 A full page ad (facing page 452) for the Pioneer Flour Mills says: "Pioneer Flour Mills, the new discovery flours. The model mill of America. Daily capacity, 500 Barrels. Founded 1832, rebuilt 1883. Austin Herr, prop." Included is an attractive though somewhat inaccurate little vignette of the mill, looking south.
- 1886 George W. Cissel & Co. (G.W. Cissel, John D. Newman, and Samuel S. Cissel) flour mill, Water near Potomac N.W. (this, in light of the above, is probably the "Ray Mill" on corner of Water (K) and Potomac).
- 1887 George W. Cissel & Co., flour, 3270 Water St., N.W.  
Austin Herr, 3258-3263 Grace, and 3417-3429 Water.
- 1888 George W. Cissel & Co: office, 3260 Water, N.W. mill 3261 Water, N.W. (this is the present number of the "Ray Mill" site, corner of Potomac and K). Austin Herr & Co. (Austin Herr and Arthur B. Cropley) millers, addresses as above, 1887.
- 1890 George W. Cissel & Co. (G.W. Cissel and S. Sewall Cissel) millers, 3260 Water St.  
Arthur B. Cropley (miller) 3258-62 Grace, and 3417-3429 Water St.  
Austin Herr, and James W. Walsh, bankers and brokers, Sun Bldg. 1315 F St. N.W.
- 1891 George W. Cissel & Co. (same address)  
Arthur B. Cropley, miller, 3258-62 Grace (but no mention of the other site).



- 1892 A. B. Cropley, 418 33rd St. N.W.: no mention of mill at all.
- 1893 George W. Cissel & Co., Arlington Roller Mills, 3260 K Street  
Cropley, Arthur B., broker, 3319 O St. N.W.
- 1894 George W. Cissel & Co., as above. (It appears that Cissel now owns both the Bomford mill and the one below it, the "Ray Mill", together with 3260-62 K St.)
- 1915 No listing, 3261 K Street.
- 1917 3261 K Street: vacant.
- 1918 3261 K Street: Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company.
- 1967 Wilkins-Rogers Milling Co. Inc., flour and feed.

- c. From the incomplete chain of title above, the directory and assessment records, and Jackson's Chronicles of Georgetown (see Bomford biography) we can indicate the following ownership of the Bomford Mill:

George Bomford: ca. 1832 - ca. 1850 (Bomford died 1848)  
 Thomas Wilson: ca. 1850-1866.  
 Abraham H. Herr: 1866 - ca. 1876. During this time he was variously in partnership with James S. Welch.  
 A. H. Herr and George W. Cissel: 1879-1885.  
 Austin Herr: 1886-1887  
 Austin Herr & Company: 1888-1889  
     With Arthur B. Cropley  
 Arthur B. Cropley: 1890-1891  
 George W. Cissel & Co.: 1892-1914  
 Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company: 1916-1967

2. Date of erection: 1845. According to the ad of the Pioneer Flour Mills (Bomford's Mill) in Boyd's Washington and Georgetown Directory for 1886, facing p. 452, the mill was "founded" in 1832. This may be the date of the original building which was burned in 1844 (Jackson, Chronicles of Georgetown, p. 120) and was rebuilt in 1845 on the same foundations. The 1886 ad also mentions that it was "rebuilt" in 1883. This may have been simple remodeling. Newspaper accounts of the time would reveal if it had been damaged by fire or what not.
3. Architect: Unknown.
4. Original plans, construction, etc.: None known.
5. Notes on alterations: "Rebuilt" in 1883. The first two floors were remodeled into offices about 1932, wooden columns were replaced by steel.
6. Important old views: The 1886 ad has a small engraving of the building from the north (see copy photo with this data book). It is also shown in the bird's-eye lithographic view

of Washington and Georgetown of 1883 by Sachse (Library of Congress, Map division), and in the "View of Potomac from Georgetown College" about 1893 (copy photo in the files of the Fine Arts Commission).

B. Historical Events Connected with the Structure:

Colonel George Bomford, builder and first owner of the mill:

Milling of various kinds was an important business in Georgetown in the first half of the 19th century, for after 1831 the Chesapeake and Ohio canal provided a reliable source of water with a 30-35 foot fall for the mills. Although Bomford is generally known as an ordnance specialist, he was also a business man of note in Georgetown.

The Dictionary of American Biography (Charles Scribner's Sons, 1931, v. 2, p. 427) gives an account of his life. In brief, he was born in New York City in 1782. "His father was an officer of the Continental army in the Revolution. He was appointed a cadet in the army on Oct. 24, 1804, commissioned as second lieutenant of engineers, July 1, 1805, and for the next seven years was engaged upon fortification work in New York Harbor and Chesapeake Bay. He was promoted first lieutenant in 1806, captain in 1808, and major in 1812. Upon the outbreak of the war with Great Britain he was assigned to ordnance duty, for which he proved to have a special talent. Knowledge of the manufacture of ordnance was rare in this country, and his exceptional abilities made him indispensable. The howitzer or shell gun named the Columbiad, from Joel Barlow's epic poem, was Bomford's invention. He was appointed lieutenant-colonel of ordnance in 1815, and in 1832 was made colonel and chief of ordnance of the army. Upon the death of Mrs. Barlow, whose sister he had married, he bought the famous estate of Kalorama.... During his occupancy it was famous as the resort of statesmen and diplomats. The trees and plants collected there from all parts of the world, under Mrs. Bomford's judicious direction, made it one of the most notable botanical gardens in the country. The failure of a large cotton mill which Bomford had established on Rock Creek crippled his fortunes, already impaired by unfortunate investments in Washington real estate, and late in life he was obliged to sell Kalorama to settle his liabilities. He died at Boston [March 25, 1848], where he had gone to witness the casting of some heavy guns. Bomford was the greatest ordnance expert of his time in the United States, an inventor of note, and an able organizer and administrator. A good writer and speaker, his opinions carried great weight both in the executive departments and in Congress.... He was a public-spirited citizen, interested in religious, philanthropic, and artistic activities in the District of Columbia, notably in the movement which led to the building of the Washington Monument."

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It is his mill in Georgetown, however, that interests us here. Jackson, in his Chronicles of Georgetown (p. 120) relates the following: "In the month of September, 1844, the large merchant mill erected by Colonel George Bomford, at the foot of the market house, was destroyed by fire: and in the spring of 1845, Colonel Bomford erected a cotton factory on the ruins of the old mill, which went into operation in 1847. Colonel Bomford considered that a cotton factory would be of more benefit to the town than a flour mill, in giving employment to a large class of its population. The factory was run under his ownership until 1850, when it was sold to Thomas Wilson, of Baltimore, who ran the factory until the breaking out of the late war, when the supply of cotton was cut off. In 1866 the building was purchased by our enterprising fellow-citizen A. H. Herr, who converted it again into a merchant flour mill."

A more convincing reason for converting to cotton after the fire of 1844 is suggested by Mrs. Corra Bacon-Foster in "The Story of Kalorama," Records of the Columbia Historical Society, v. 13, 1910, p. 113: "[Bomford] had a large flouring mill in Georgetown which was destroyed by fire in 1844. There was much competition hereabouts then in grist milling. The field was clear for cotton mills which were prospering elsewhere, so he constructed an immense water wheel and erected a four story building on the site in which he placed three thousand spindles and one hundred looms. The mill provided employment for more than one hundred men and women. The success of the enterprise did not repay the outlay; although the city of Georgetown had assisted by remitting all taxes he found himself seriously embarrassed. It is said he never recovered from his reverses, but died broken hearted."

It may be this cotton mill that is mentioned by William A. Gordon in "Recollections of a Boyhood in Georgetown", CHS, v. 20, 1917, p. 130-131: "Almost in front of these warehouses on the river bank was a large saw-mill of heavy timbers, not enclosed, where the logs which had been floated down the river were hauled up and sawed into lumber. Next to this mill was an iron furnace or smelter where to the delight of the boys the workmen, generally naked to the waist, moved about in the glare of the molten metal. Then there were the numerous flour mills and a cotton factory which we were allowed on rare occasions to visit, the intricate machinery of which inspired admiration and astonishment." (ca. 1855-60).

Colonel Bomford was buried in the Kalorama vault, together with Joel Barlow. A portrait of Col. Bomford is reproduced in CHS v. 13, pl. X, and his wife pl. XI.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia.  
Georgetown Assessment records (National Archives, Group 351, Microcopy 605).  
Rogers W. Young, The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal and the Antebellum Commerce of Old Georgetown, typescript, January 1940, (National Park Service).
2. Secondary and published sources: Dictionary of National Biography, vol II.  
Journal of the Columbia Historical Society.  
Washington city directories (D.C. Public Library).
3. Likely sources not yet investigated: D.C. Building Permits.

Prepared by Daniel D. Reiff  
Architectural Historian  
National Park Service  
September, 1967

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural character: The old Bomford Mill is central to the Wilkins-Rogers Milling Company complex as it contains the offices as well as milling facilities and storage. Attached to it are various modern structures. Bomford's Mill represents a utilitarian functional design of the mid-nineteenth century. With ornamentation kept to a minimum, the straightforward handling of the construction, materials and finishes are typical of commercial structures of that period.
2. Condition of fabric: Well maintained. The foundation of rubble and red brick seems to be structurally sound. Concrete reinforcing supplements the brick (probably added in the 1920's). The original windows have been replaced by metal and wooden ones. In various places these are infilled with exhaust fans, vents and louvers. To the north elevation has been added a white wooden colonnaded porch with brick dado above which is a wood framed glass entrance foyer. In spite of the alterations, the structure retains much of its original appearance.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: Rectangular in shape, running north and south, measuring 129' 6" x 40' 2". Two bays on the north and south ends (although bricked up windows are evident)

and twelve on the sides. Four stories, and a basement which is exposed as an additional story at the southern(downhill) end. Below this basement is an area with millrace tunnels,

2. Foundations: The foundation is composed of rough rubble masonry, common bond brick load bearing walls (various header levels), brick arches, and recently installed concrete framing.
3. Wall construction: Red brick in common bond with headers every six rows. This is painted gray on the north elevation; the corners are chamfered. Five pointed star-shaped tie rod plates appear continuously around the building at the second, third, fourth floor and the roof levels.
4. Framing: The structural system is a combination of concrete, steel and heavy wood posts; bearing walls of brick; and a brick and masonry foundation. The mill framing consists of 12" x 12", 10 1/2" x 10 1/2", 9 1/2" x 9 1/2", and 10 1/2" x 8" posts (columns) with square beams of the same dimensions. Atop the columns are bolsters extending to each side, or sometimes spanning the space between two columns as well. Between the beams are heavy joists carrying an assortment of floors: tongue and groove wooden flooring, concrete, and steel plate.
5. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc.: A simple wooden colonnaded porch extends across the north end. It consists of four white columns supporting a low pitched roof with an extended metal gutter. Between the two inner columns is a recent brick and glass enclosed foyer. The lower portion is common bond red brick. Above this dado are wooden frames containing panels of 6, 12, and 24 lights. These are small panes. This porch rests on a new brick podium and has basket pattern flooring. The middle 2/3 of the columns have chamfered edges. In the porch roof are three rectangular skylights (each containing four panes). Flanking the foyer on the north edge of the podium is a wrought and cast iron balustrade.
6. Chimneys: A small square common bond red brick stack appears inside the northeast corner with a double brick string course occurring two courses below its top.
7. Openings:
  - a. Doorways and doors: The main entrance, inside the foyer, is round arched with a semicircular three light transom and two pane side lights. On the east side of the mill, double doors appear at every floor level. They are usually in wooden frames with four lights over three wooden panels. Near the southeast corner on the east side at

the basement floor level appear two large eight light over one panel doors; these are a later alteration.

- b. Windows and shutters: On the north elevation the fenestration is composed of six over six double hung windows under flat brick arches with stone sills. They are flanked by double panel fixed louver shutters painted black. The fenestration on the east consists of three over six over three, steelframed windows, and six over six double hung wooden windows. The middle sections of the metal ones are center hinged projecting windows.

8. Roof:

- a. Shape, covering: Built up roof sloping west, tarred metal flashing seals the parapets which surround it.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The mill is capped with a corbeled brick cornice formed by a sort of blind machicolation supporting a single projecting header row. From the middle of the north side west the cornice is reduced in height.
- c. Dormers, cupolas, towers: Four modern skylights of translucent glass in the porch roof. Two small square buildings (sheathed and roofed with tin) containing stairs and machinery sit on the mill roof. A concrete and brick elevator tower is attached to the south wall.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Basement: The rectangular storage space has two rows of twelve square columns down the center forming three aisles which measure, west to east, 13' 11", 11' 3" and 12' 0". Columns are twin WF with WF steel beams, wood joists, and flooring of wood and concrete. The stairway is in the southwest corner, and connects all floors.
- b. First floor: The rectangular space with two rows of columns has the first five bays used as offices, and the remainder as production space. Columns are twin WF with wood beams and joists, and wood flooring.
- c. Second floor: The rectangular space with two rows of columns, has the first four bays used as offices; the remainder is production space. The heavy timber columns are enclosed in plaster; the floors and joists are wood.
- d. Third floor: A rectangular storage space with two rows of columns; these are of wood, 9 1/2" and 10 1/2" square.

- e. Fourth floor: The rectangular storage space has a single row of columns down the center. These measure 10 1/2" x 8".
2. Stairways: The main stairway, located in the southwest corner of the building, is a dog-leg stair with landings at every floor and half floors. Nine risers connect the landings. Enclosed in heavy rectangular wooden stringers are 11 inch wooden treads with 7 3/4 inch riser spaces. There are no risers, but the rear of the treads are sheathed in narrow wood boarding. Large rectangular wooden newels are connected by single rectangular handrails. There are no balusters. In the office section there is a single wooden dog-leg stair. A straight metal stair supplements the main one connecting the third and fourth floors.
  3. Flooring: Concrete, steel plate, and wood decking cover the basement and first floor. The other floors are narrow wood planking.
  4. Wall and ceiling finish: Finishes are rare, with the joists, beams, columns and load bearing masonry walls exposed. In the office areas hung ceilings and wood paneling conceal some of these. The walls of the staircase are plaster. In the second floor production room there is a hung ceiling and the columns have a plaster coating, but in most cases the walls are brick and the ceiling is the underside of the next floor.
  5. Doorways and doors: Except in the remodeled office area (where moden flush panel doors appear) the only interior doors are sheathed in metal and open onto the main stairwell.
  6. Decorative features and trim: None.
  7. Notable hardware: None.
  8. Lighting, type of fixtures: Incandescent lighting.
  9. Heating: Oil burner hot air system.
- D. Site:
1. General setting and orientation: Southwest of the intersection of old Cherry Alley and the old Fish Market, now Grace Street and Potomac Street, Bomford's Mill faces north toward the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal. The general setting is that of light industry and manufacturing with all the attendant noise, odors, and activities.
  2. Enclosures: None.

3. Outbuildings: To the south it is connected to a concrete frame mill with storage areas. To the west are wood framed tin covered shipment sheds which are connected to concrete silos.
4. Walks: The mill abuts a new flat common bond brick walk on the east with slate curbs. Set into the walk is a nicely carved splash stone near the northeast corner of the mill.
5. Landscaping: None.

Prepared by William R. Gwin  
Student Assistant Architect  
National Park Service  
September, 1967